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for or against socialism that is not at least mentioned, and the case for capitalism is presented with enthusiasm, and in some respects with skill, though a greater readiness to admit its defects would strengthen the author's argument.

The first division of the book is an argument against land nationalization, which Leroy Beaulieu regards as mere limited collectivism. The second section is a hostile criticism of the theories of Lasalle and Marx, and of the scheme of socialistic organization outlined in Schaeffle's "Quintessence of Socialism." Such criticism, in view of the progress of economic theory, is an easy task, though perhaps even yet a necessary one. It is not necessary, however, to paint the highly colored picture of socialist tyranny that M. Leroy Beaulieu's imagination conjures up. Notwithstanding this exaggeration, most of the stock criticisms of collectivism are presented with force and point.

The third part of the work, in which the present position of socialist doctrine and policy is taken up, is the most useful division of the book. The outlines of the Bernstein controversy and of the revisionist discussion in France are well presented, and the opinions of important representatives of contemporary socialism are fairly set down. In his anxiety to demonstrate the essential similarity of the purposes of these writers, the author appears to us to have minimized perhaps unduly their differences. None the less, he gives a good idea of the present divergent state of socialist opinion.

The distinguished name of Leroy Beaulieu, so well known as a stout defender of the existing order, will attract many readers to this book who have never seen it in the original. While it is not a profound or sympathetic presentation of its subject, it is nevertheless a virile, well written criticism, and one adapted to set to thinking any who would thoughtlessly abandon the advantages of our present form of economic organization.

HENRY RAYMOND MUSSEY.

University of Pennsylvania.

Brückner, A. *A Literary History of Russia.* Translated by H. Havelock. Pp. xi, 588. Price, \$4.00. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1908.

Professor Brückner's original work in German has been and still is the authoritative book of Western Europe on Russian literature as a whole. His work is now made more accessible to the English-speaking public by this carefully prepared translation.

The editor of this English edition very justly notes in his introduction that as a Pole, Mr. Brückner has found it difficult to be quite fair to old Russia with which old Poland was in constant conflict. Thus he passes over the early period of Russian literature rapidly. The general reader is less interested in this period however, and it is the treatment of the later periods that forms the principal part of the work.

Russian literature more than any other has reflected economic, social and political conditions. The reaction of politics particularly upon letters is admirably traced by the author. The social purpose of literature in Russia

is properly emphasized, for one cannot understand the development of Russian writing unless one bears in mind this constant intrusion of "purpose."

The book is for popular usage, and is therefore not encumbered with constant indications of sources, but the best English translations of the Russian classics and of more modern writers are given. An appeal is made, however, to learn Russian in order to be able to study this enormous literature at first hand, for, as is stated, the difficulty of this language has been greatly exaggerated.

By reason of being most imperfectly known Russia has been much maligned, exploited by writers of sensation, and generally looked down upon. One is often dumbfounded at the absolute ignorance of Russian literature. Tolstoy is of course known to the reading public, but the other great lights of the same period and of earlier and later periods are often not known even by name. Yet Russia has produced some of the most eminent writers of the last century. If we must still wait for a satisfactory up-to-date political history of Russia we have here an admirable history of its literature, or more exactly, as the title indicates, the history of Russia in the matter of literature.

During the confusion of a vast political movement the "true lines of literary movement have been obscured," so that the last chapter does not bring us beyond 1905, though it points out the prevailing tendencies as presented in Gorky and Andreiev.

A word must be said of the scholarly and admirable preparation of this English edition by Mr. Minns, who has been for years a thorough student of the Russian language and literature.

SAMUEL N. HARPER.

University of Chicago.

Chancellor, William E. *Our City Schools, Their Direction and Management.*

Pp. xv, 338. Price, \$1.25. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1908.

This work is supplementary to an earlier one entitled "Our Schools, Their Administration and Supervision." The former dealt with communities of from five thousand to fifty thousand inhabitants; in the present volume the discussion treats of larger cities.

The author accepts the social welfare of the democracy as the ultimate aim of the school and looks to education as the universal panacea for the evils existing in our great municipalities. "The city, the great city ever tending to become yet greater, is the insoluble problem of civilization; its degeneration and collapse have hitherto been inevitable. Universal education may be the missing factor by which mankind is to solve the problem." In this work, the establishment of proper system, the handling of physical details, what Thring called "the almighty wall," is considered the greatest need of our schools. "In the poor school system, the good school is an accident and is always in peril of destruction. In the good school system, the poor school is an anomaly and is certainly in process of reform and of improvement. In other words, I know that a good teacher cannot evolve a good